

Message Text

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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 OECD PARIS 12074

DEPT PASS LABOR FOR METCALF

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, OECD

SUBJECT: MANPOWER AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING,
APRIL 15-17, 1975

REF: OECD PARIS 104717

1. SUMMARY.

MSAC MET APRIL 15-17 AND DISCUSSED CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION, GOVERNMENTAL POLICIES TO COMBAT INFLATION, UNEMPLOYMENT AND RECESSION. OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE WAS DECISION TO AGREE IN PRINCIPLE TO RECOMMEND A MSAC MEETING AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL IN 1976 TO CONSIDER EMPLOYMENT SECURITY. JAMES METCALF, US DEPT. OF LABOR, HEADED USDEL. END SUMMARY.

2. AGENDA ITEMS 1, 2, 3, 4 AND 5.

FALCHI (ITALY) WAS REELECTED AS CHAIRMAN. ELECTIONS FOR VICE-CHAIRMAN POSTPONED TO JULY 1975 MSAC MEETING. AGENDA ADOPTED WITH DELETION OF ITEM 9 (RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE ENTERPRISE MANPOWER POLI-
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CIES); SUMMARY RECORD APPROVED; PROGRESS REPORT AND

DIRECTOR'S ORAL STATEMENT WERE NOTED AS WAS EXAMINERS' REPORT MS/M/601/471 ON FINLAND'S MANPOWER POLICIES.

3. AGENDA ITEM 6 - EMPLOYMENT SECURITY, MO(75)3.

STEPHEN POTTER, HEAD, ECONOMIC PROSPECTS DIVISION, REPORTED ON CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION WITHIN OECD AREA, AND GOVERNMENTAL POLICIES TO COPE WITH SAME. A NUMBER OF DELEGATES STATED UNEMPLOYMENT AND EXPANSION POLICIES MUST BE GIVEN HIGHEST PRIORITY. IRISH DELEGATE ASKED, HOWEVER, IF "POLITICAL GOAL OF FULL EMPLOYMENT IS REALISTIC IN LONG AND SUGGESTED THAT THAT CONCEPT MAY REQUIRE REVISION. US DEL COMMENTED ON INADEQUACY OF ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE FOCUS ON DEMAND MANAGEMENT WHICH DOES NOT ADDRESS PROBLEMS RESULTING FROM STRUCTURAL CHANGES. THUS, AS TYPICAL DEMAND MANAGEMENT RESPONSE, US DEL NOTED TREND IN A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES TO SUBSIDIZE INEFFICIENT INDUSTRIES, AND OBSERVED THAT ENERGY CRISIS AND CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION INDICATE HOW LITTLE IS KNOWN ABOUT STRUCTURAL CHANGE. AFTER CONCLUDING DISCUSSION, COMMITTEE AGREED TO SEND REPORT ON EMPLOYMENT (MO(75)3) TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL WITH FOLLOWING COVER NOTE:

"COMMITTEE DIRECTS YOUR ATTENTION SPECIFICALLY TO RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING NEED FOR GREATER INVOLVEMENT OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR MANPOWER POLICIES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF MACRO-ECONOMIC POLICY AND IMPROVED INTERRELATION AND LINKAGE BETWEEN GENERAL ECONOMIC POLICY AND MANPOWER POLICY. EXPERIENCE IN DEALING WITH PRESENT UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS HAS REINFORCED COMMITTEE'S VIEW THAT CLOSER COORDINATION BETWEEN ECONOMIC AND MANPOWER POLICIES AND PROGRAMS IS ESSENTIAL TO DEAL WITH OUR EMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS EFFECTIVELY. THE COMMITTEE IS CONVINCED THAT STRUCTURAL AND INSTITUTIONAL PROBLEMS ARE BECOMING MORE SERIOUS IN MANY COUNTRIES AND IT IS UNLIKELY THAT DEMAND MANAGEMENT ALONE CAN ACHIEVE ACCEPTABLE LEVELS OF EMPLOYMENT WITHOUT PRODUCING UNACCEPTABLE INFLATIONARY PROBLEMS. IT IS ALSO APPARENT TO THE COMMITTEE THAT THE LACK OF COORDINATION BETWEEN ECONOMIC AND MANPOWER POLICIES AND PROGRAMS HAS INCREASED THE DIFFI-

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CULTY OF INTRODUCING TIMELY ACTION TO DEAL WITH UNEMPLOYMENT CAUSED BY THE CURRENT RECESSION".

4. AGENDA ITEM 7 - POSSIBLE MSAC AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL.

THE COMMITTEE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO RECOMMEND A MSAC MEETING AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL DURING FIRST HALF 1976 TO CONSIDER SECURITY OF EMPLOYMENT. FINAL MSAC DECISION

RE MINISTERIAL WILL BE MADE ONCE PREPARATORY WORK BY
SPECIAL WORKING PARTY IS COMPLETED.(SEE REFTEL FOR
FULL REPORT).

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5. AGENDA ITEM 8 - POSSIBLE REVISION OF 1964 ACTIVE
MANPOWER POLICY RECOMMENDATION, MO(75)7.

MSAC INSTRUCTED THE SECRETARIAT TO PREPARE DRAFT REVISI-
ON OF 1964 RECOMMENDATION AND AGREED THAT SUCH REVIEW
COULD BE AGENDA ITEM FOR LABOR MINISTERIAL IF HELD.

6. AGENDA ITEM 10 - MIGRATION.

THE COMMITTEE AGREED TO THE OECD'S ROLE AS DEFINED IN
PARA 4 OF COVER NOTE TO MO(75)1 AND TO CONTINUED DEVE-
LOPMENT OF THE REPORTING SYSTEM ON MIGRATION (SOPEMI).
MSAC ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT BACKGROUND REPORT (SME/ME
(74)1) BE DISTRIBUTED AND, IF APPROPRIATE, PUBLISHED ON
THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SECRETARIAT.

7. AGENDA ITEM 11 - 1976 WORK PROGRAM, MO(75)8.

A. US DEL EXPRESSED GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH PROPOSALS, BUT MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

1. PERHAPS SECRETARIAT HAS OVEREMPHASIZED THE ASSUMPTION THAT GOVERNMENTS WILL REQUIRE PRIVATE ENTER-

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PRISE TO ACCEPT NEW SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES (PARA 4);

2. SECRETARIAT SHOULD CLARIFY PROPOSAL THAT MSAC "CONSIDER CONTRIBUTION OF SOCIAL SCIENCES TO ITS ACTIVITIES ON SOCIAL POLICY AND SOCIAL INNOVATION" (PARA 11);
3. MSAC SHOULD CONSIDER MECHANISMS WHICH WILL ASSURE THAT PUBLIC MANPOWER POLICIES ARE MORE RESPONSIVE TO CYCLICAL CHANGES, AND TO ADJUST ECONOMIC/MANPOWER POLICIES SHOULD CURRENT MIX OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE DEMAND BE INCAPABLE OF ACHIEVING FULL EMPLOYMENT WITHOUT STIMULATING UNACCEPTABLE LEVELS OF UNEMPLOYMENT. EMPHASIS SHOULD BE PLACED ON NEED TO ESTABLISH BETTER INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR LINKING GOVERNMENTAL MANPOWER AND MACRO-ECONOMIC POLICIES;
4. SECRETARIAT HAS ASSIGNED SUFFICIENTLY HIGH PRIORITY TO THE WP ON THE ROLE OF WOMEN, AND THAT MSAC SHOULD SUPPORT WP SHOULD IT DESIRE TO ACHIEVE PERMANENT STATUS.

B. COMMITTEE INSTRUCTED SECRETARIAT TO: REVISE PROGRAM, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT VIEWS EXPRESSED; DELETE PARA 9 III (PARTICIPATION IN POSSIBLE SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION CENTER); SUBMIT REVISED PROGRAM PROPOSALS AT JULY MEETING.

8. AGENDA ITEM 12 - EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT, C(75)34.

DISCUSSION POSTPONED TO JULY MEETING.

9. AGENDA ITEM 13 - EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT, C(75)34 AND MO(75)12.

MOST DELEGATIONS PRAISED REPORT BY AD HOC GROUP OF EXPERTS CHAIRED BY CLARK KERR. SPANISH DEL SAID REPORT'S CONCLUSIONS APPEARED "EXTREMELY USEFUL", ESPECIALLY "BILL OF RIGHTS" FOR MIGRANT WORKERS. SWISS AND NETHERLANDS DELEGATES COMMENTED THAT REPORT HAD WIDE-RANGING POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS AND MANY OF ITS PROPOSALS DID NOT APPEAR ECONOMICALLY VIABLE. (THEIR MAJOR CONCERN WAS, UNDOUBTEDLY, MIGRANTS' BILL OF RIGHTS.) US DEL CONGRATULATED REPORT; SAID THE SUBJECT WAS OF GREAT CONCERN WITHIN US, AND THAT THREE CABINET-

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LEVEL OFFICERS HAVE RECENTLY SUBMITTED A FIRST REPORT
ON THE ISSUE TO PRESIDENT FORD.

10. AGENDA ITEM 13 - FUTURE EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES,
CERI/CD(75)3.

WHILE US DEL INSISTED PROPOSALS BE COORDINATED CLOSELY
WITH EDUCATION COMMITTEE AND THAT PARA 9 BE DELETED,
(SEE PARA 8 B ABOVE), COMMITTEE EXPRESSED GENERAL IN-
TEREST IN BEING "ASSOCIATED" WITH THE "STUDY OF THE
FEASIBILITY OF THE OPTIONS OUTLINED".

11. AGENDA ITEM 14 - TRENDS AND INNOVATIONS.

INSUFFICIENT TIME FOR DISCUSSION. INTERESTED DELEGA-
TIONS CAN SUBMIT WRITTEN REPORTS.

12. AGENDA ITEM 15 - OTHER BUSINESS.

US DEL, SUPPORTED BY CANADA, INDICATED CONSIDERABLE
USG INTEREST IN SECRETARIAT PROPOSAL TO CONVENE MEETING
OF AD HOC WP ON EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS. US DEL NOTED
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THAT SHORTCOMINGS OF EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS METHODOLOGY
AND COLLECTION MILITATE AGAINST MORE PRECISE EVALUATION
OF CURRENT EMPLOYMENT SITUATION. MSAC THEN AGREED TO
AD HOC WP MEETING PROPOSED IN MO(75)11 TO EXCHANGE
EXPERIENCE ON EXISTING STATISTICAL INFORMATION AND IDEN-
TIFY AREAS WHERE USEFUL WORK COULD BE UNDERTAKEN. NO
DATE SET.

NEXT MSAC MEETING WILL BE HELD JULY 9-11. SPECIAL WP
ON AGENDA FOR POSSIBLE MINISTERIAL WILL BE HELD JULY
7-8.

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